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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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XOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO SANTIAGO FROM
USUN NEW YORK 11 OCTOBER REPEATED

QTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USUN 3847

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UN CU CI

SUBJ: CUBAN FONMIN ROA CREATES SERIOUS INCIDENT IN UNGA
PLENARY

REF: USUN 3822

1. CUBAN FONMIN RAUL ROA'S DISGRACEFUL PERFORMANCE IN
UNGA PLENARY OCT. 10 HIGHLIGHTED BY NARROWLY AVOIDED
PHYSICAL ALTERCATION BETWEEN HEAD OF CHILEAN DELEGATION
RAUL BAZAN AND ROA, WHO SOUGHT TO STOP CHILEAN STATEMENT OF
REPLY TO ROA'S GENERAL DEBATE SPEECH.

2. AS REPORTED IN USUN 3822, ROA'S SPEECH HIT A NEW LOW,
EVEN FOR HIM, OF INTEMPERATE INVECTIVE AND UNFOUNDED
EXTREME CHARGES, ATTACKING NOT ONLY CHILEAN GOVERNMENT AND
US, BUT BRAZIL, URUGUAY, PARAGUAY AND BOLIVIA,

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WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS FASCIST "PUPPETS" OF US. ALL INDICATED
THEY WOULD EXERCISE RIGHT OF REPLY, WITH CHILEAN (BAZAN)

LEADING OFF. JUST AS BAZAN TOUCHED UPON MASS EXECUTIONS IN CUBA FOLLOWING REVOLUTION (AL PAREDON), ROA ROSE FROM HIS SEAT AT CUBAN TABLE AND STRODE DOWN THE AISLE TOWARD ROSTRUM, SHOUTING OBSCENITIES AT BAZAN, AND FOLLOWED BY OTHER CUBANS, INCLUDING BODY GUARDS. MOVING SOMEWHAT SLOWLY, UN SECURITY GUARDS POSITIONED THEMSELVES, AMIDST GREAT CONFUSION, BETWEEN BAZAN AND ROA GROUP. AT LEAST ONE OF ROA'S GUARDS WAS SEEN OPENING HIS COAT, PRESUMABLY TO HAVE PISTOL (WHICH WAS EXPOSED TO VIEW) AT THE READY.

3. BY THIS TIME, NICARAGUAN DELEGATION (SEATED IN FRONT OF ASSEMBLY HALL NEAR PODIUM), HAD JUMPED INTO THE FRAY, APPARENTLY TO BLOCK AISLE AND TO PROTECT BAZAN. NICARAGUAN DEPUTY PERM REP LANG SHOUTED AN OBSCENITY AT CUBANS. GA PRES. BENITES THEN POUNDED HIS GAVEL, AND, LOOKING AT LANG, DECLARED MEETING ADJOURNED BECAUSE OF DISTURBANCE. A FEW MINUTES LATER, HOWEVER, BENITES PERMITTED SESSION TO RESUME.

4. 30 MINUTES LATER, JUST BEFORE AMB. SCALI SLATED TO DELIVER REPLY, BENITES, OBVIOUSLY UPSET, BEGAN TO EXPLAIN LEGAL BASIS (UNDER UNGA RULES OF PROCEDURE) FOR HIS ORIGINAL DECISION TO ADJOURN MEETING. NICARAGUAN REP THEN TOOK FLOOR ON POINT OF ORDER TO OFFER DIFFERENT INTERPRETATION OF RULES. BENITES, HIGHLY AGITATED, THEN SAID HE WOULD PUT HIS RULING TO VOTE, AND INDICATED IT WOULD BE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN HIS PRESIDENCY. IN EFFORT TO CALM THINGS DOWN, BRAZILIAN PERM REP FRAZAO PROPOSED TEN MINUTE SUSPENSION. AT BENITES INSISTENCE, BRAZILIAN SUSPENSION PUT TO VOTE AND PASSED.

5. DURING BRIEF RECESS, AMB. SCALI SOUGHT OUT BENITES IN LATTER'S OFFICE AND FOUND HIM IN HIGHLY EMOTIONAL STATE, ANNOUNCING TO ASTOUNDED ECUADOREAN MISSION PERSONNEL AND SECRETARIAT EMPLOYEE THAT HE WAS RESIGNING AS UNGA PRES. SINCE LA GROUP, WHICH HAD ENDORSED HIM FOR POST, NO LONGER SUPPORTED HIM. SCALI ENGAGED IN RAPID MASSAGING OPERATION, ARGUING THAT BENITES RESIGNATION WOULD BE TRIUMPH FOR THOSE (READ CUBANS) WHO WANTED TO DEGRADE UN. BENITES
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EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR KIND REMARKS, CALMED DOWN CONSIDERABLY, AND RETURNED TO ASSEMBLY HALL WHERE HE REOPENED MEETING.

6. STRONG RIGHT OF REPLY STATEMENTS BY US, BRAZIL, BOLIVIA, PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY THEN WERE DELIVERED IN RELATIVE CALM, WITH URUGUAYAN REFERENCE TO ROA'S "GANGSTER PERFORMANCE" DRAWING APPLAUSE. LATER ROA STATEMENT SO FILLED WITH PERSONAL ABUSE AIMED AT CHILEAN GOVT. OFFICIALS THAT BENITES ATTEMPTED (WITH NO SUCCESS) TO CALL HIM TO ORDER. BRAZIL'S

SECOND REPLY RECEIVED PROLONGED APPLAUSE.

7. TODAY, UN CORRIDORS BUZZING WITH RUMORS THAT CUBANS DREW PISTOLS IN ASSEMBLY HALL LAST NIGHT AND AS RESULT MANY LA DIPLOMATS NOW STATING THEY ARE ARMING THEMSELVES IN "SELF DEFENSE". LA GROUP CAUCUSING INFORMALLY THIS AFTERNOON, WITH SOME MEMBERS DEMANDING FORMAL CENSURE OF CUBA BY UNGA AND OTHERS URGING THAT UN SECRETARIAT CLARIFY POLICY ON BEARING OF ARMS BY DELEGATES ON UN PREMISES.

8. COMMENT: ROA AND HIS CUBAN HENCHMENT SO DISCREDITED THEMSELVES LAST NIGHT THAT "GANGSTERISM" IS WORD MOST COMMONLY HEARD TODAY AT UN TO DESCRIBE THEIR BEHAVIOR. SOME DELEGATES EVEN QUESTION ROA'S SANITY. WHILE BENITES' PERFORMANCE HAS ELICITED SOME EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY FOR TERRIBLE STRAIN TO WHICH HE SUBJECTED, MANY DELEGATES VERY CRITICAL OF HIS INDECISIVENESS AND HIS UNPREDICTABLE EMOTIONAL REACTION TO STRESS. IF SOME LA DELEGATIONS SUCH AS NICARAGUA AND PARAGUAY CONTINUE (AS THEY ARE DOING) TO CRITICIZE BENITES IN CORRIDOR CONVERSATION AND IN GROUP MEETINGS, BENITES MAY WELL RENEW HIS THREAT TO RESIGN.
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